

DRAFT

October 25, 2022 School Council Notes

Attendees

Gerald Yung: instill happiness & joy at school

Alexandria Grant: likes new building

Teresa Walker: diversity of staff

Piotr Mitros: likes Wang Lao Shi

Martha Schloming: 2nd year at MLK, Mandarin curriculum

Sarah Carpenter: likes our student body

Sara Engel: teachers & colleagues & staff

James Mohr: likes staff & kiddoes

Carmen Corbie: community

Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu: relationships

Cheryl Green

Raymond Porch

Manuel Fernandez

Sam Musher

Gina Gerard

PM says parents may be intimidated by GY to ask for Zoom link despite meeting being advertised as “in-person” only

GY asked PM to remove recording device

Agenda

8:00 - 8:10: Icebreaker (Background/Role; please share one thing you value about the school)

8:10 - 8:20: Norm Setting

PM says one norm is missing about following the law

PM says parents were confused about this meeting (lack of Zoom and only 5 spot left for parents); GY would like to connect with those parents, as council member wants PM to bridge the gap between parents & school

MS says OK to leave it but is it needed to take up space since it's an expectation now deleted

AG wants to flesh out “civility”; JM proposes meeting to discuss civility means across cultures; AG doesn't want to have another meeting just about civility

CC unfair to immigrants; will have meeting with “confused” parents in future
MS says we’re here for the children, deleting “consensus” norm

8:20 - 8:40: Chief Equity Officer Mr. Fernandez’s Presentation on School Council Guidelines handbook developed by working group with Robin Harris, some here were on the group
MF did not have any “real” engagement with RH about original document
didn’t feel comfortable “telling RH what to do”; respect for her judgment & leadership
Greer wanted Executive Team to review handbook, edits made, then sent to Communication Subcommittee; MF & RP reviewed document to meet DESE
posted on website yesterday, meetings can be hybrid
PM restated parent issue again because MF was late
GY posted meeting on district School Council website page, MHG also sent email
MF says council of the past is no longer and we are still figuring out one for the future
MF says council is “recalibrating”; School Committee not required to approve handbook
MS likes hybrid model
FP wants to focus on communication part; options for attendees, nothing will be perfect but it’s about the people who are implementing the plan
GY wants fingerpointing to end
AG says last year time was spent figuring out how to make school council more accessible; if parents are reaching out, have them include all council members
SE update Council email list (MHG)
FP bring all communications to Council members; need to be identified to be heard
PM thinks there may be a power dynamic
FP hard to build community when someone is advocating for someone else
MHG will send out Council email to school community and review portal on website
SC have people send anonymous emails to School Council to end convos like this
AG says same things have been discussed repeatedly; instead of looking back look forward
MHG spend time on processes

8:40 - 8:50: Co-Chair Election

Cochair helps plan meetings, leads in GY absence, cochair needs to be an elected member; nominate yourself or someone else
PM wants cochair to be a parent; handbook confirms
Either Martha or Piotr: Martha was elected by voting members

8:50 - 9:00: Public Comment

MS watched all last year and wants Council to do more “productive” work with steps forward

PM wants to spend time on process, has document from Montana (diverse parent outreach with comprehensive needs assessment, develop SIP, eval of SIP); sees no influence on SIP

CC wants solutions not to be critical

AG suggested all to read handbook, asks PM to trust the process

PM says no because not in compliance with with law

MF says PM interrupts and handbook is in compliance; said no to MT document 2 weeks ago; quit sharing misinformation

PM incumbent on district to share with families; RH led a process; wants families to have input

MF only parent heard today is PM; portal for OEIB has not heard from caregivers about handbook, why would GY thwart involvement from community; GY and CC have the trust of this school community as well as the district; if you have an issue with the admin there are other venues to subvert council because this body looks like it's ready to move forward and do work

Pre-Registration is required.

Capacity is capped at 20.

We will meet in the first floor conference room.

Purpose

The school council shall meet regularly with the principal of the school and shall **assist** in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, in the review of the annual school budget, and in the formulation of a school improvement plan, as provided below.

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/advisory/schoolcouncils/appx.html>)

Individual educational needs of your child should be addressed with your child's teacher.

Larger curriculum or district policies should be addressed by the specific district department.

School Council Dates

October 25, 2022	February 28, 2023
November 29, 2022	March 28, 2023
December 20, 2022	April 25, 2023
January 24, 2023	May 30, 2023

Members

Marsyeh Ghassemmi	Alexandria Grant	Gerald Yung
Gina Gerard	Sara Engel	Timekeeper: Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu
Piotr Mitros	Sarah Carpenter	Notetaker: Teresa Walker
Martha Schloming		